

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2018, First Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

December 11, 2017



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 1, SFY 2018

In FY18 Quarter 1, 2,087 families applied for EA, one percent fewer than the previous quarter (2,107 families) and 17 percent fewer than FY17 Quarter 1. 957 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 1, three percent more than the previous quarter (929 families) and 13 percent fewer families than FY17 Quarter 1. Also in FY18 Quarter 1, 259 EA eligible families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing. This represented 21 percent of families entering the system. Another 951 families were approved for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program, which provides a benefit of up to \$4,000 to families at risk of homelessness to assist them in maintaining or securing housing.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 373 families in Quarter 1, accounting for 39 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 17 percent and the Brockton office at 9 percent.

Sixty-two percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while domestic violence was the reason for homelessness for 15 percent of families, eviction for 11 percent, and threatened eviction for 6 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 63 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-seven percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation. Seven percent of families who entered due to a health and safety reason were experiencing problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness), while the remaining three percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units.

During Quarter 1, 838 families exited the EA system. 418 (50 percent) of the families exiting left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

The quarter ended with a total EA caseload of 3,580 families with one percent of these families placed in overflow hotels/motels.

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EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2018 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Jul	Aug	Sep	
Families Applying to EA	2,087	2,107	655	798	687	2,087
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,216	1,181	376	465	375	1,216
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	957	929	299	371	287	957
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	79%	79%	80%	80%	77%	79%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	259	252	77	94	88	259
% Entering HomeBASE	21%	21%	20%	20%	23%	21%

Note: Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

Sources: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

EA Health & Safety Assessments

	SFY 2018 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
			Jul	Aug	Sep	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	808	773	250	304	254	808
Families Determined at Risk	726	670	228	277	221	726
% Referrals at Risk	90%	87%	91%	91%	87%	90%
Shelter Diversions	82	103	22	27	33	82
% Referrals Diverted	10%	13%	9%	9%	13%	10%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2018 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	957	100%	929	299	371	287	957	100%
Boston	373	39%	370	111	140	122	373	39%
Brockton	88	9%	73	23	39	26	88	9%
Fall River	6	1%	5	5	0	1	6	1%
Fitchburg	7	1%	8	4	0	3	7	1%
Framingham	15	2%	5	1	8	6	15	2%
Greenfield	9	1%	11	5	4	0	9	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hyannis	11	1%	14	3	3	5	11	1%
Lawrence	46	5%	50	19	20	7	46	5%
Lowell	17	2%	10	8	6	3	17	2%
Malden	3	<1%	5	0	1	2	3	<1%
New Bedford	49	5%	31	13	20	16	49	5%
North Shore/Salem	53	6%	60	26	16	11	53	6%
Pittsfield/North Adams	1	<1%	6	0	0	1	1	<1%
Plymouth	3	<1%	1	0	1	2	3	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	58	6%	66	15	27	16	58	6%
Southbridge	5	<1%	1	3	1	1	5	<1%
Springfield	158	17%	153	50	63	45	158	17%
Taunton	3	<1%	2	0	2	1	3	<1%
Worcester	52	5%	58	13	20	19	52	5%

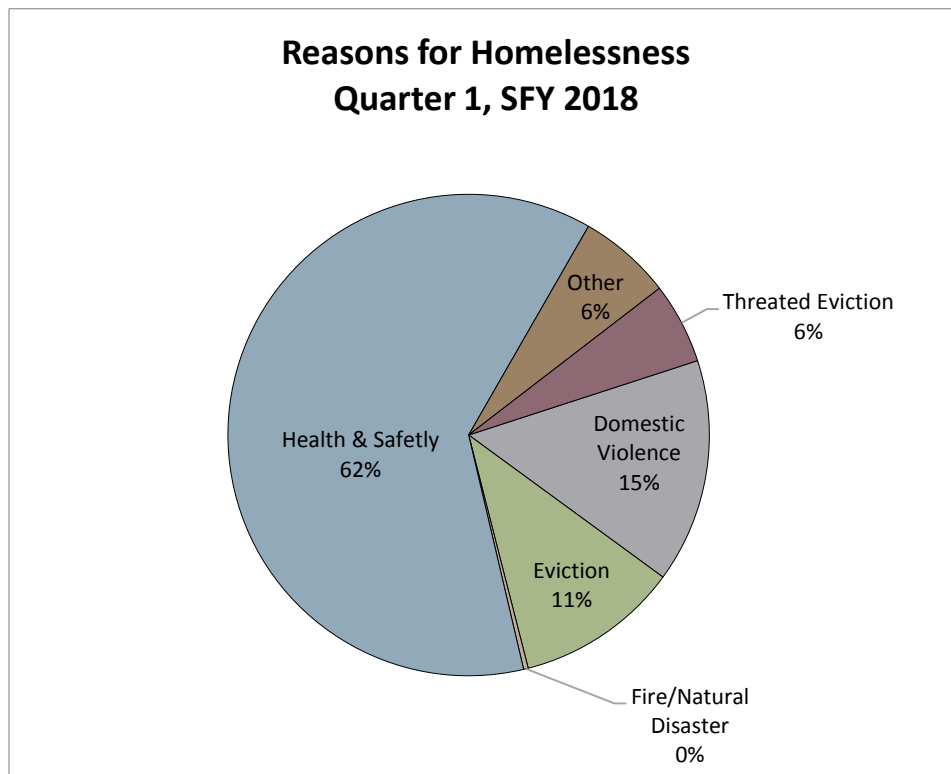
Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

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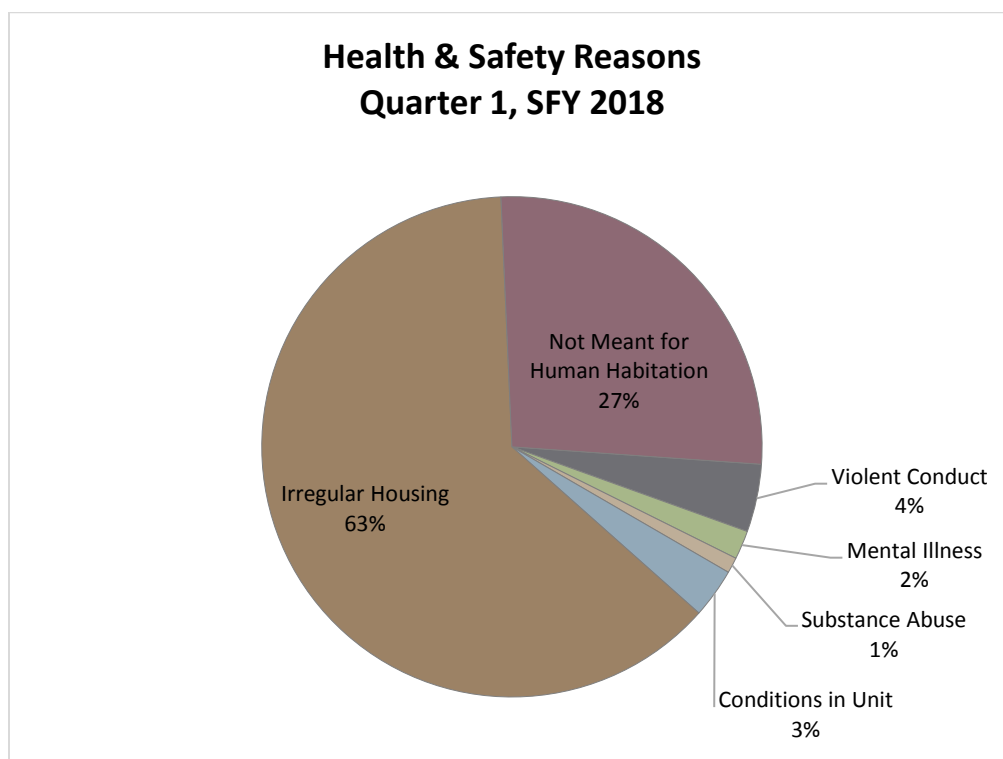
**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2018 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
Total	957	100%	929	299	371	287	957	100%
Domestic Violence	144	15%	122	47	52	45	144	15%
Eviction	105	11%	107	31	34	40	105	11%
Fire/Natural Disaster	3	<1%	11	0	2	1	3	<1%
Health & Safety	593	62%	531	170	248	175	593	62%
Threatened Eviction	60	6%	45	22	20	18	60	6%
Other	52	5%	113	29	15	8	52	5%

Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.
Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.



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Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	SFY 2018 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
			Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% Exits
Total	838	903	283	286	269	838	100%
Abandoned	134	112	60	39	35	134	16%
Criminal Activity	2	3	0	1	1	2	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	418	522	130	141	147	418	50%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	139	121	46	46	47	139	17%
Ineligible	22	20	9	9	4	22	3%
No Show/Rejected Placement	9	7	5	3	1	9	1%
Non-compliance	19	15	7	5	7	19	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	84	82	24	37	23	84	10%
Other/Unknown	11	21	2	5	4	11	1%

Notes:

Families receiving a Temporary Shelter Interruption may return to the system within 30 days.

Families terminated from shelter for abandoning their placements or non-compliance may return to the system pending an appeal.

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Types of Subsidies at Exit	SFY 2018 Quarter 1	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% Exits
Total Families Receiving Subsidies	491	161	151	179	491	100%
ESG	8	4	2	2	8	2%
HomeBASE	384	130	107	147	384	78%
HUD Continuum of Care	21	8	4	9	21	4%
MRVP	18	5	7	6	18	4%
Private Subsidized Housing	46	13	21	12	46	9%
Section 8 Mobile Voucher	26	5	13	8	26	5%
Section 8 Project-Based Voucher	13	6	3	4	13	3%
Other Public Housing	38	6	15	17	38	8%
Transportation	9	3	3	3	9	2%

Notes:

Families may receive multiple subsidy types. Therefore, the sum of the subsidy types does not equal the number of families. Data based on subsidies identified at time of shelter/hotel exit. HomeBASE Tracker data based on the date that checks are issued may vary.

**Assistance Provided to Families
with Previous Episodes of Homelessness**

Type of Assistance	SFY 2018 Quarter 1	SFY 2018			FY18 YTD
		Jul	Aug	Sep	
Strategic Prevention Support	5	0	2	3	5
HomeBASE Diversion	109	29	44	36	109
EA Shelter/Hotel	45	13	21	11	45

Note: Data includes returns of families active in EA from FY2009 through the present.

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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 1, SFY 2018	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,529	99%
Hotels/Motels	51	1%
All Families	3,580	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	+35	
% Change from Previous Quarter	1.0%	

Note: Data indicate the number of families in EA shelter or hotels/motels at the end of the quarter.

Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA
During SFY 2018, Quarter 1

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	2,078	309
Cost Per Episode	\$130	\$270,140	\$40,170

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$130 (the weighted average of the shelter and hotel/motel rates).
The average daily rate includes additional costs incurred through housing stabilization and services coordination provided to families in EA.

HomeBASE Caseload and Payments

HomeBASE Household Assistance	SFY 2018 Quarter 1
Families Receiving HB Housing Assistance	3,699
Families Beginning HB during Quarter	742
Families Continuing HB during Quarter	2,957
Families Entering Shelters/Hotels within 12 Months of Receiving HB	3
Average HomeBASE Payment	\$6,095
Minimum HomeBASE Payment	\$477
Maximum HomeBASE Payment	\$8,000

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Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

RAFT Applications and Approvals

	SFY 2018 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2018			SFY 2018 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sep	# Families	% of Total
Families Applying	1,140		373	249	472	419	1,140	
Families Approved	951	100%	321	190	391	370	951	100%
Asked to Leave	210	22%	67	4	115	91	210	22%
Domestic Violence	80	8%	5	65	9	6	80	8%
Eviction (Private)	270	28%	68	67	108	95	270	28%
Eviction (Public/Subsidized Housing)	156	16%	82	19	57	80	156	16%
Fire/Flood/Natural Disaster	2	<1%	1	1	1	0	2	<1%
Foreclosure	7	1%	4	1	3	3	7	1%
Health and Safety	27	3%	12	5	13	9	27	3%
Severe Overcrowding	154	16%	45	15	66	73	154	16%
Utility Shut-Off	35	4%	12	12	12	11	35	4%
Other Crisis	10	1%	25	1	7	2	1	1%

RAFT Assistance Spending

RAFT Payments	
Total Families	784
Average	\$2,514
Minimum	\$116
Maximum	\$4,000

Income level	Total Assistance	# Families	Average Per Family
0-15% AMI	\$538,127.40	254	\$2,118.61
15-30% AMI	\$740,456.92	301	\$2,459.99
30-50% AMI	\$566,326.86	209	\$2,709.70

Notes:

Some families approved for RAFT during the quarter did not begin receiving payments until the following quarter.
20 families were missing income level data.